

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
OF THE NORTH WALSHAM URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR - 1925

To

The Chairman & Members of the North Walsham Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1925.
It is a survey report covering the years from 1920.

The Sanitary condition of the Area is much improved during this time and there is much evidence of recovery from the war years.

Seventy five new houses have been built and about the same number have been put into a habitable condition after necessary repairs have been carried out.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area - 4,252 acres - Mostly Agricultural.

Population - Census 1921 - 4156. Estimated for 1925 - 4,254.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) - 1,154.

Number of Families or separate occupiers (1921) - 1,180.

Rateable value - £15,474.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £64. 9. 6.

Poor Law Relief - £1,933

VITAL STATISTICS

Births - Total Number - 71. Legitimate Males 40. Females 30.

Illegitimate - Males 1 " -

Rate per 1,000 - 16.6 For England & Wales 18.3

Deaths - Total Number - 59. Rate per 1,000 - 13.8 For England & Wales - 12.2.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year - 2.

HOSPITALS &C.

No Hospitals are provided by the Authority but an Isolation Hospital for cases of infectious diseases. This provision is made in conjunction with the Erpingham Rural District Authority and the Sheringham Urban District Authority. The accommodation consists of the Administration Block and Two Pavilions of two Wards each, each Ward capable of holding Five beds - Twenty beds in all. The Hospital is about seven miles from the Town.

A Hospital is situate in the area - viz. the North Walsham War Memorial Cottage Hospital and is available for cases from the area and surrounding Parishes. There are two wards, one for males and one for females, accommodating six patients each. There are two private wards and a well equipped operating theatre.

The Norfolk and Norwich large General Hospital is also available and is used when required and necessary.

There is no institution for unmarried mothers or illegitimate children.

There is a Children's Home in the area which is controlled by the Board of Guardians of the Smallburgh Union to which Union the Area belongs.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) Infectious cases are removed to Hospital in a covered Conveyance kept for the purpose by the Authority.

(b) Red Cross Motor Ambulances are available by telephone from Norwich and Cromer when required for the removal of cases of illness or accident.

An efficient unit of the St John's Ambulance Brigade is established in the area

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES

There is an Infant Welfare Centre in the District for consultation and advice to Mothers - but not for treatment. The Centre has worked fairly well for some years but it is increasingly difficult to obtain the money required in addition to the grant from the Ministry of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) Mr John Shepheard,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr Wilfred Morris- Institute of Municipal & County Engineers, Testamur - Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate. Diploma in San. Science applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Other appointments held by the Sanitary Inspector are those of Surveyor, Cemetary Superintendent and Waterworks Engineer.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING

No professional Nursing is provided by the Authority.

A Nurse is provided entirely by voluntary contributions for attendance upon those who cannot afford to procure assistance for themselves.

MIDWIVES

No Midwives are employed by the Authority.

There is a Midwife resident and practising in the area whose salary is provided by the County Council. She also acts as Health Visitor. Her work has been most valuable and has tended very much to raise the standard of the conditions surrounding childbirth and the upbringing of children.

CHEMICAL WORK

None has been required in the area. Should any be required it would be done by the County Analyst

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

The adoptive Acts and Byelaws etc. in force in the area are
1914 - Regulations re Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

1915 - Byelaws re Common Lodging Houses.

1915 - Byelaws re Nuisances.

1901 - Regulations re Water Supply

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the past five years there have been 100 cases of Scarlet Fever - Most of them occurring in 1923/24. There have been 13 cases of Diphtheria during this period. No cases of encephalitis lethargica have been notified. Fourteen cases of pneumonia have been notified since January 1919 - half of them in that year. No cases of malaria, dysentery or trench fever have been notified.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory, Norwich. Six throats swabs were examined during the past year.

In 1923, in consequence of the occurrence of a case of Diphtheria in the Paston School, use was made, with the assistance of Medical Officers of the Ministry, of the Schick test and those boys found susceptible were inoculated with toxo-antitoxin.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Regulations of 1917.

There have been 13 deaths attributed to influenza during the past five years. No special action has been taken with regard to any outbreak of the disease.

No facilities are available in the area for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons.

Premises which have been exposed to the infection of diseases are disinfected by the local authority, but no special plant is available in the district for the disinfection of bedding etc.

The incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925 is shown below:-

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	15	12	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever...	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-
Other Diseases (Generally notifiable)	1 (Erysipelas)	-	-
TOTAL	16	13	Nil

Influenza was very prevalent among children in January and February and it became necessary for the schools to be closed for two weeks.

There were a few cases of measles in November and December and the infant school was closed for three or four weeks.

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases and Mortality during 1925

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 ...		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ---		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 ...		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 ...		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 ...		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 ...		-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
35 ...		-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 ...		-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 ...		-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & upwards		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	5	-	1	1	2	3	-

No action has been taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor under the Public Health Act 1925, Section 62.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient generally. There is no wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER - The Water supply is now normal and good. The trouble arising in connection with the pumps in 1924 has been rectified and the overhauling and replacing of the main set of pumps has been completed during the year. Fifteen new services have been laid on from the Main.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE - During the year a Ministry of Health Inquiry was held and a promise of assistance was received from the Unemployment Grants Committee, and arrangements were made for starting a main drainage scheme for the Town.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - Most of the Closets are pail closets. Those closets which are on the water-carriage system being those upon property where the owners have been able to construct cesspools. The fixed privies are now very few and are in the rural part of the area. The numbers are estimated at :-

Water Closets	-	85.
Pail Closets	-	995.
Privies (fixed)	-	20.
Ash-pits.	-	6.

SCAVENGING - House Refuse is removed by the Council's dustcart. The collection being twice a week in the centre of the town and once in other parts. During the year the Council has arranged to collect a limited amount of trade refuse (Twenty gallons per collection per shop).

Night soil is removed in the Council's nightcart, the collection being once or twice weekly according to the number of persons per household. A new Sanitary tumbler cart with rubber-tyred wheels has been purchased during the year.

Both house refuse and night soil are removed to a field about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant from the town. The house refuse is used to fill up a large pit and the night soil is sold, after maturing, for manure.

During the year the collection has been extended to include the new houses and the Marshgate area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA - The Sanitary Inspector reports that he has made (a) 168 Inspections, viz :-

Bakehouses	-	27.
Slaughterhouses	-	57.
Cowsheds, Dairies &c.		12.
Common Lodging Houses		6.
Factories & Workshops		7.
Re Infectious Diseases		25.
Miscellaneous		37.
		169. (b)

Number of Notices served - Nil. (c) Result - All action has been successful without recourse to Statutory Notices.

HOUSING

Housing Statistics for the year 1925

Number of houses erected during the year - (a) Total - 15. (b) With State assistance (i) By Local Authority - Nil. (ii) By other persons 10.

Unfit Dwelling Houses - (i) Number inspected - 51. (ii) Number inspected and recorded - 47. (iii) Number unfit for human habitation, Nil. (iv) Number not in all respects fit - 15. Remedied without formal notice - 15. Action under statutory powers - Nil.

Note - It was hoped that 100 houses would have been inspected and recorded during the year but that number was not reached owing to the considerably increased duties of the Sanitary Inspector under the new Heat Regulations.

General Housing conditions of the Area - I (1) The general Housing Conditions are very fair. (2) (a) There is no shortage or excess of houses at present (b) Nil. (3) No important changes occur in the population.

II Overcrowding - 1. There is little overcrowding in the area. 2. What there is, is due to large families. 3. No general scheme is contemplated for dealing with overcrowding, but each case is dealt with as it arises.

III. Fitness of houses - 1 (a) The general standard of housing in the area is very fair. (b) The general character of defects is dampness - due to leaky roofs and bad troughing - and want of general repair (c) The defects are generally due to lack of management and supervision by owners and this failure to deal with defects is often due to the owners want of means.

2. No general action has been taken as regards unfit houses. Except that inspections have been made and defects have been remedied on informal notice having been given.

3. No special difficulties have arisen in remedying unfitness.

4. The Water Supply, Closet Accommodation, and refuse disposed is generally adequate though in a few cases action has been taken with regard to insufficient closet accommodation.

IV. No complaints have been received as to unhealthy areas.

V. Byelaws etc. (1) No Building Byelaws exist. (2) The Council is considering the adoption of Building Byelaws etc., as they are considered needful.

VI. No special action has been taken during the year bearing on public health except the forwarding of the Drainage scheme.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLY - There is a good and wholesome milk supply in the area. The milk is produced within the area or in adjacent villages. Cowsheds, Milkshops and Dairies have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

(i) No action has been taken as to tuberculous milk or cattle.

(ii) No licences have been granted for the sale of specially designated milk.

(iii) No licences have been applied for for the sale of graded milk.

(iv) No bacteriological examinations have been made.

B. MEAT - (i) Meat Inspection. This is done by the Sanitary Inspector the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health being given in doubtful cases. The Sanitary Inspector attended four lectures at the Royal Sanitary Institute, Billingsgate and the Metropolitan Cattle Market, last November. The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector attended a meeting of Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors in Norwich which was called by the County Medical Officer of Health and addressed by a Medical Officer of the Ministry upon the subject of Meat and Food Inspection. It was felt by all those present that a course of lectures on Meat Inspection and the new regulations thereon would be of much benefit to all concerned - if held in Norwich.

Fixed times for killing have been notified by all except three butchers. These three are pig butchers only and notify the Inspector of each killing. A supply of printed forms have been issued to all butchers for notifying times of slaughter and for notifying any diseased or unsound conditions in cases where the Inspector has been unable to be present at the time of slaughter.

During the year about one-third of the animals killed have been inspected. Diseased and otherwise condemned meat is usually destroyed or buried under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, occasionally a carcass is sent to the local Knackers'

(ii) Meat shops, stores, and vehicles are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

(iii) There are no public slaughter-houses.

Private slaughter-houses:-

In 1920. January 1925. December 1925.

Number registered	-	4.	4.	4.
" licensed	-	2.	2.	4.
		6.	6.	8.

C. OTHER FOODS - Inspection of places where food is prepared and stored is made at irregular intervals by the Sanitary Inspector. These places in the district are satisfactorily kept.

The Condition of the Bakehouses is satisfactory. They are regularly lime-washed and kept clean.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

There have been no cases of Puerperal fever during the year and no cases of poliomyelitis. Influenza was prevalent among young children in January and February, as was measles in November and December, but no special steps were taken in the matter by the Local Authority.

The Maternity & Child Welfare Centre in the area is a voluntary organisation and has been working fairly satisfactorily. There is, as I have said above, great difficulty in getting the necessary funds. The Midwife who also acts as Health Visitor is supplied by the County Council as Supervisory Authority. She does very good work among expectant mothers, nursing mothers, and children. The distribution of milk to young children and expectant mothers and nursing mothers under the County Council scheme is carried out under her directions in cases approved by the Medical Officer of Health

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases			Vision	Vision	Total	Deaths
Notified	Treated at Home	In Hospital	un-impaired.	impaired	blindness.	
1	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours obediently,

JOHN SHEPHERD.

May 1926.

John Shepherd

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